

Bureau of Land Management, Interior

§ 2803.2

the grant or permit and applicable laws and regulations.

[45 FR 44526, July 1, 1980. Redesignated at 52 FR 25820, July 8, 1987]

§ 2803.1–5 Liability.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (f) of this section, each holder shall be fully liable to the United States for any damage or injury incurred by the United States in connection with the use and occupancy of the right-of-way or permit area by the holder.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (f) of this section, holders shall be held to a standard of strict liability for any activity or facility within a right-of-way or permit area which the authorized officer determines, in his discretion, presents a foreseeable hazard or risk of damage or injury to the United States. The activities and facilities to which such standards shall apply shall be specified in the right-of-way grant or temporary use permit. Strict liability shall not be imposed for damage or injury resulting primarily from an act of war, an Act of God or the negligence of the United States. To the extent consistent with other laws, strict liability shall extend to costs incurred by the United States for control and abatement of conditions, such as fire or oil spills, which threaten lives, property or the environment, regardless of whether the threat occurs on areas that are under Federal jurisdiction. Stipulations in right-of-way grants and temporary use permits imposing strict liability shall specify a maximum limitation on damages which, in the judgment of the authorized officer, is commensurate with the foreseeable risks or hazards presented. The maximum limitation shall not exceed \$1,000,000 for any one event, and any liability in excess of such amount shall be determined by the ordinary rules of negligence of the jurisdiction in which the damage or injury occurred.

(c) In any case where strict liability is imposed and the damage or injury was caused by a third party, the rules of subrogation shall apply in accordance with the law of the jurisdiction in which the damage or injury occurred.

(d) Except as provided in paragraph (f) of this section, holders shall be fully liable for injuries or damages to third

parties resulting from activities or facilities on lands under Federal jurisdiction in which the damage or injury occurred.

(e) Except as provided in paragraph (f) of this section, holders shall fully indemnify or hold harmless the United States for liability, damage or claims arising in connection with the holder's use and occupancy of rights-of-way or permit areas.

(f) If a holder is a State or local government, or agency or instrumentality thereof, it shall be liable to the fullest extent its laws allow at the time it is granted a right-of-way grant or temporary use permit. To the extent such a holder does not have the power to assume liability, it shall be required to repair damages or make restitution to the fullest extent of its powers at the time of any damage or injury.

(g) All owners of any interest in, and all affiliates or subsidiaries of any holder of a right-of-way grant or temporary use permit, except for corporate stockholders, shall be jointly and severally liable to the United States in the event that a claim cannot be satisfied by the holder.

(h) Except as otherwise expressly provided in this section, the provision in this section for a remedy is not intended to limit or exclude any other remedy.

(i) If the right-of-way grant or temporary use permit is issued to more than one holder, each shall be jointly and severally liable under this section.

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§ 2803.2 Holder activity.

(a) If a notice to proceed requirement has been included in the grant or permit, the holder shall not initiate construction, occupancy or use until the authorized officer issues a notice to proceed.

(b) Any substantial deviation in location or authorized use by the holder during construction, operation or maintenance shall be made only with prior approval of the authorized officer under § 2803.6–1 of this title for the purposes of this paragraph, substantial deviation means:

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(1) With respect to location, the holder has constructed the authorized facility outside the prescribed boundaries of the right-of-way authorized by the instant grant or permit.

(2) With respect to use, the holder has changed or modified the authorized use by adding equipment, overhead or underground lines, pipelines, structures or other facilities not authorized in the instant grant or permit.

(c) The holder shall notify the authorized officer of any change in status subsequent to the application or issuance of the right-of-way grant or temporary use permit. Such changes include, but are not limited to, legal mailing address, financial condition, business or corporate status. When requested by the authorized officer, the holder shall update and/or attest to the accuracy of any information previously submitted.

(d) If required by the terms of the right-of-way grant or temporary use permit, the holder shall, subsequent to construction and prior to commencing operations, submit to the authorized officer a certification of construction, verifying that the facility has been constructed and tested in accordance with terms of the right-of-way grant or temporary use permit, and in compliance with any required plans and specifications, and applicable Federal and State laws and regulations.

§ 2803.3 Immediate temporary suspension of activities.

(a) If the authorized officer determines that an immediate temporary suspension of activities within a right-of-way or permit area for violation of the terms and conditions of the right-of-way authorization is necessary to protect public health or safety or the environment, he/she may promptly abate such activities prior to an administrative proceeding.

(b) The authorized officer may give an immediate temporary suspension order orally or in writing at the site of the activity to the holder or a contractor or subcontractor of the holder, or to any representative, agent, employee or contractor of the holder, and the suspended activity shall cease at that time. As soon as practicable, the authorized officer shall confirm an oral

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order by a written notice to the holder addressed to the holder or the holder's designated agent.

(c) An order of immediate temporary suspension of activities shall remain effective until the authorized officer issues an order permitting resumption of activities.

(d) Any time after an order of immediate temporary suspension has been issued, the holder may file with the authorized officer a request for permission to resume. The request shall be in writing and shall contain a statement of the facts supporting the request.

(e) The authorized officer may render an order to either grant or deny the request to resume within 5 working days of the date the request is filed. If the authorized officer does not render an order on the request within 5 working days, the request shall be considered denied, and the holder shall have the same right to appeal the denial as if a final order denying the request had been issued by the authorized officer.

§ 2803.4 Suspension and termination of right-of-way authorizations.

(a) If the right-of-way grant or temporary use permit provides by its terms that it shall terminate on the occurrence of a fixed or agreed-upon condition, event, or time, the right-of-way authorization shall thereupon automatically terminate by operation of law, unless some other procedure is specified in the right-of-way grant or temporary use permit. The authorized officer may terminate a right-of-way grant or temporary use permit when the holder requests or consents to its termination in writing.

(b) The authorized officer may suspend or terminate a right-of-way grant or temporary use permit if he determines that the holder has failed to comply with applicable laws or regulations, or any terms, conditions or stipulations of the right-of-way grant or temporary use permit or has abandoned the right-of-way.

(c) Failure of the holder of a right-of-way grant to use the right-of-way for the purpose for which the authorization was issued for any continuous five-year period shall constitute a presumption of abandonment. The holder may rebut the presumption by proving